

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please substitute the specification attached in Appendix I for the previously filed specification. Applicant submits that no new matter is added and that the only changes are the addition of section headings at the appropriate locations in the specification according to U.S. practice. A marked-up copy of the original specification is attached in Appendix II pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121 (b)(3)(iii).

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1 – 12.

Please add the following new claims 13 – 25.

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13. An ankle/foot orthosis comprising a strapping member for a lower leg, and having an inflexible anterior longitudinal stiffener, a sole plate, and a strut connecting the longitudinal stiffener and the sole plate, the strut extending to the sole plate at the outer side thereof, and anterior of the position of the ankle, wherein said strut is flexible.

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14. An ankle/foot orthosis according to claim 13 wherein the flexible portions of the orthosis are manufactured substantially of one of glass fibre and aramid fibre reinforced resin, and the inflexible portion is manufactured in carbon fibre reinforced resin.

15. An ankle/foot orthosis according to claim 13 wherein the rigidity of sole plate varies over the area thereof, portions being inflexible, and portions being flexible so as to give support to the foot whilst allowing bending of the toes.

16. An ankle/foot orthosis according to claim 14 wherein the rigidity of sole plate varies over the area thereof, portions being inflexible, and portions being flexible so as to give support to the foot whilst allowing bending of the toes.

17. An ankle/foot orthosis according to claim 13 wherein the strapping member is adapted to extend around the sides of a leg, and has securing straps adapted to accommodate variation in leg thickness.

18. An ankle/foot orthosis according to claim 17 wherein said strapping member is moulded from a soft thermoplastic so as to be mouldable by application of heat

19. An ankle/foot orthosis according to claim 13 wherein said strut is encased.

20. An ankle/foot orthosis according to claim 19 wherein the strut is encased in sleeve of plastics material.

21. An ankle/foot orthosis according to claim 20 wherein said sleeve is heat shrinkable so as to mould itself tightly to the contours of the strut.

22. An ankle/foot orthosis according to claim 13 wherein fasteners are provided whereby the stiffener is movable longitudinally of the strapping member

23. An ankle/foot orthosis according to claim 22 wherein said stiffener is on the inside of said strapping member.

24. An ankle/foot orthosis according to claim 13 wherein said stiffener resides in a channel of the strapping member.

25. An ankle/foot orthosis according to claim 24 wherein said channel is open at the bottom.